GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:387
ANSWERED ON:01.12.2015
Damage to Cotton Crops
Chaudhary Shri C.R.;Gavit Dr. Heena Vijaykumar;Mahadik Shri Dhananjay Bhimrao;Patil Shri Vijaysinh Mohite;Radhakrishnan Shri T.;Satav Shri Rajeev Shankarrao;Singh Shri Ravneet;Sule Smt. Supriya Sadanand;Verma Shri Rajesh

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the farmers have suffered huge loss due to damage caused to cotton crop by the white fly pest in various parts of the country during the current year;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the quantum of the losses and the incidents of suicide committed by cotton farmers in country, State-wise;

(c) the details of financial package/compensation announced by the Government and given to the affected farmers;

(d) whether there are reports of adverse impact on production and productivity of Bt cotton due to use of unlicensed Bt cotton seeds in certain parts of the country, if so,
the details thereof and the action taken by the Government in this regard; and

(e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to protect the interest of Bt. cotton growers and to prevent the pest attack on cotton crop?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

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(a) & (b): During Kharif, 2015 whitefly infestation was reported in cotton crop especially from the eight cotton growing districts of Fazilka, Bathinda, Mansa, Shri Muktsar Sahib, Sangrur, Barnala, Faridkot and Moga in Punjab. As per the figures provided by the Punjab State, 3.32 lakh hectare area of cotton was infested. In Haryana, special gridwari has been ordered to assess the losses due to whitefly infestation. No major losses on this account was reported from any other cotton growing
State in the country from white fly attack.
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No report of suicide committed by cotton grower has been reported by any State Government so far.
(c): As per the information given by the State Govt. of Punjab a sum of Rs. 643.58 crores have been released as compensation.

(d): As regard sale of spurious Bt cotton seed, few cases of supply of spurious Bt cotton seeds were reported by the States like Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra. Details of complaints of supply of spurious Bt cotton seeds received from the State Governments for the last three years and action taken is at Annexure-I.

(e): Timely advisories were issued to the various State Governments including Punjab to manage the whitefly problem in Bt cotton. In addition, a list of pesticides recommended by CIB & RC (Central Insecticide Board & Registration Committee) to manage whitefly in the cotton was also provided to the State Government .A special survey was conducted by the Central Team in association with State Department Officers in the affected areas in Punjab & Haryana States. Senior officers of Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers welfare visited the affected areas in Punjab and Haryana to provide all necessary assistance in taking effective corrective steps.